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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:RBEECROFT:ILB
APPROVED BY PM/DCA - MR. BAKER
EUR/RPM - MR.SHINN
C - MR. FUERTH
EUR/SOV - MR. GLASSMAN
INR/STA - MR. FINCH
NSC - MR. MARCUM
ACDA - MR. TIMBIE
OSD - MR. KANGAS S/S-OMACFARLANE
JCS - COL. PATER CIA MR. RUSSELL
---------- 123347
O P 250113Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY
USDEL USSCC GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM

SU ECT: LETTER TO NAC ON PRE-POSITIONED MESSAGES

AGREEMENT

1. REQUEST USNATO CIRCULATE FOLLOWING TEXT AS LETTER
FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE TO PERMREPS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DURING THE SPRING 1976 SESSION OF THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE
COMMISSION (SCC) IN GENEVA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE
SOVIET UNION REACHED AGREEMENT, AD REFERENDUM TO GOVERN-
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MENTS, ON A SERIES OF SHORT MESSAGES TO SPEED THE

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TRANSMISSION OF THE NOTIFICATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1971 AGREEMENT ON MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF OUTBREAK OF NUCLEAR WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. THE FORM OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE A PROTOCOL AIMED AT IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON MEASURES AND, AS SUCH, WOULD ENTAIL NO NEW OBLIGATIONS.

THE PROTOCOL WOULD CODIFY A SET OF SIX SHORT MESSAGES APPLICABLE TO SITUATIONS COVERED BY VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT ON MEASURES WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE THE MOST RAPID POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION TO REDUCE THE RISK OF OUTBREAK

OF NUCLEAR WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE IDENTICAL FULL TEXTS CORRESPONDING TO THE PRE-AGREED MESSAGES WOULD BE KEPT BY BOTH COUNTRIES. ONLY A CODE WORD AND NUMERICAL DESIGNATOR WOULD NEED TO BE SENT OVER THE WASHINGTON-MOSCOW DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE MESSAGE CORRESPONDING TO THE EMERGENCY SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN. THUS, DELAYS CAUSED BY COMPOSING A MESSAGE, TRANSMITTING THE FULL TEXT, AND HAVING THE RECIPIENT TRANSLATE THE INCOMING MESSAGE INTO HIS OWN LANGUAGE WOULD BE AVOIDED.

TO ALLOW THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY, THE PROTOCOL SPECIFIES THAT THE USE OF THE PRE-AGREED SHORT MESSAGES IS NOT MANDATORY. IF EITHER NOTIFYING PARTY DEEMS ANOTHER FORM OF NOTIFICATION TO BE MORE APPROPRIATE (E.G., A DETAILED MESSAGE, OR THE USE OF A COMMUNICATION CHANNEL OTHER THAN THE DIRECT COMMUNICATION LINK), THEN IT HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO USE THIS OTHER FORM OF NOTIFICATION.

BECAUSE THEY ARE A MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT ON MEASURES, THE MESSAGES ARE INTENDED TO BE USED ONLY WHEN THE SITUATION DESCRIBED COULD CREATE A RISK OF OUTBREAK OF NUCLEAR WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE SIX SITUATIONS COVERED BY THE PRE-AGREED MESSAGES ARE:

1. AN ACCIDENTAL, UNAUTHORIZED OR ANY OTHER UNEXPLAINED
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INCIDENT INVOLVING A POSSIBLE DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

2. DETECTION BY MISSILE WARNING SYSTEMS OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS.

3. DETECTION OF INTERFERENCE WITH MISSILE WARNING SYSTEMS OR WITH RELATED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.

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4. AN UNSUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF A MISSILE WHICH DOES NOT CARRY A NUCLEAR WEAPON, AS THE RESULT OF WHICH THE MISSILE TRAJECTORY EXTENDS BEYOND NATIONAL TERRITORY IN A DIRECTION SUCH THAT THE EVENT MAY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE OTHER PARTY. (THE PROTOCOL SPECIFIES THAT THE PARTY ON WHOSE SIDE THE UNSUCCESSFUL MISSILE LAUNCH OCCURRED DETERMINES WHETHER CONDITIONS WARRANT SENDING THE MESSAGE.)

5. AN UNEXPLAINED NUCLEAR INCIDENT WHEREIN ONE PARTY BELIEVES THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE OTHER PARTY MAY BE MISINTERPRETED.

6. AN UNEXPLAINED NUCLEAR INCIDENT WHEREIN ONE PARTY BELIEVES THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT ITS ACTIONS MAY BE MISINTERPRETED.

A RECIPIENT OF A PRE-AGREED MESSAGE CORRESPONDING TO SITUATIONS 2, 3, OR 5 ABOVE WOULD ENSURE URGENT TRANS-MISSION OF APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT, AND FOR THE OTHER THREE SITUATIONS WOULD TRANSMIT, AS IT DEEMED NECESSARY, ANY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION. THE PARTY SENDING A MESSAGE WOULD ALSO ENSURE TRANSMISSION OF APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL WITHIN THE US GOVERNMENT AND ANTICIPATE SIGNATURE EARLY IN THE SCC SESSION WHICH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 29. ALTHOUGH THE FACT OF THIS AGREEMENT AND ITS SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE DISCLOSED AT SOME FUTURE POINT, WE WOULD NOT PLAN TO MAKE THE TEXT OF THE PROTOCOL PUBLIC. THE PROTOCOL WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE SIX MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE.

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END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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